

PESTICIDALLY ACTIVE COMBINATIONS

The present invention relates to a novel pesticidally active combination comprising a herbicidally active ingredient in the form of an agrochemically acceptable salt and one or 5 more insecticidally active ingredients, and optionally one or more additional active ingredients. The invention relates also to a method of controlling unwanted growth in crops of useful plants.

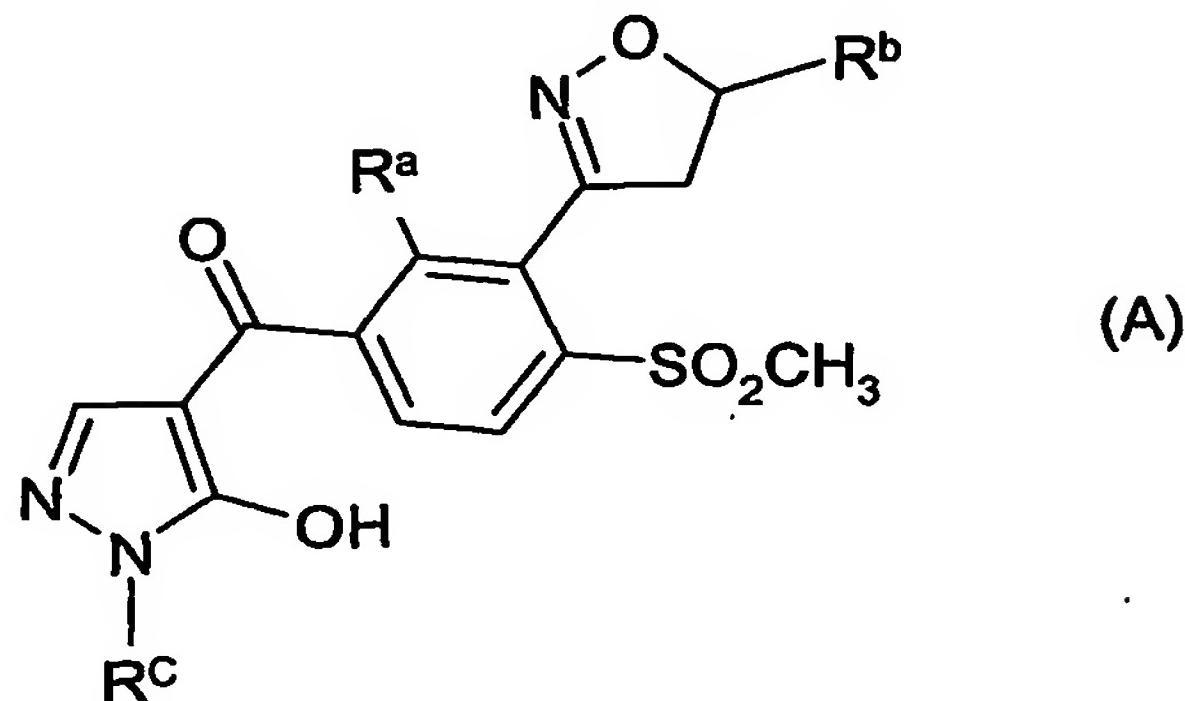
The protection of crops from weeds and other pests that inhibits crop growth is a constantly recurring problem in agriculture. To help combat this problem, researchers in the 10 field of synthetic chemistry have produced an extensive variety of chemicals and chemical formulations effective in the control of such unwanted pests. Chemical pesticides of many types have been disclosed in the literature and a large number are in commercial use. Commercial pesticides and some that are still in development are described in The Pesticide Manual 12th Edition, published in 2000 by the British Crop Protection Council.

15 Agricultural pesticide manufacturers have identified the need for broad-spectrum pesticidally active products. Single active ingredient formulations rarely meet such broad-spectrum requirements, and thus combination products, perhaps containing up to four complementary biologically active ingredients, have been developed. Such products have several additional advantages e.g. elimination of tank mixing; reduction in inventory 20 products; saving in time and money; and a reduction in the number of times the crop is sprayed.

One combination considered was a combination of an HPPD inhibiting herbicide with an insecticide. However, when tested, the crop damage seen was considerably increased, compared to that seen following application of the HPPD inhibiting herbicide 25 alone. It was then surprisingly discovered by the inventors that if an agrochemically acceptable salt of the HPPD inhibitor was used a safening effect was seen and the crop damage caused by the combination was considerably reduced to an acceptable level.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a pesticidally active combination comprising an HPPD-inhibiting herbicide in the form of an agrochemically acceptable salt

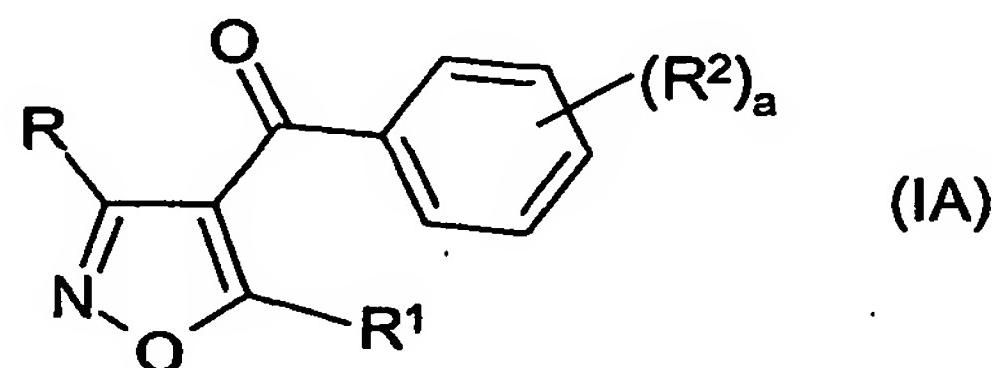
and an insecticide, provided that the HPPD-inhibiting herbicide is not a compound of formula (A)



wherein R^a is C₁₋₂ alkyl or chloro; R^b is hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and R^c is C₁₋₄ alkyl.

The HPPD-inhibiting herbicides for use in the present invention are suitably selected from the group consisting of isoxazoles, triketones, pyrazoles, benzobicyclon and ketospiradox.

Suitably, the isoxazole is a compound of formula (IA)



wherein R is hydrogen or -CO₂R³;

R¹ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R² is independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, -(CR⁴R⁵)_cS(O)_bR⁶, -S(O)_bR⁶, -OSO₂R⁶ and -N(R⁷)SO₂R⁶; or two groups R², on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing up to three ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, which ring may be optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, nitro, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy and -S(O)_bR⁶, it being understood that a sulphur atom, where present in the ring, may be in the form of a group -SO- or -SO₂-;

R^3 is C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^4 and R^5 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^6 is C_{1-4} alkyl, or phenyl or benzyl, each of phenyl and benzyl optionally bearing from one or five substituents which may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, nitro and $-S(O)_bCH_3$;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

a is an integer from one to five;

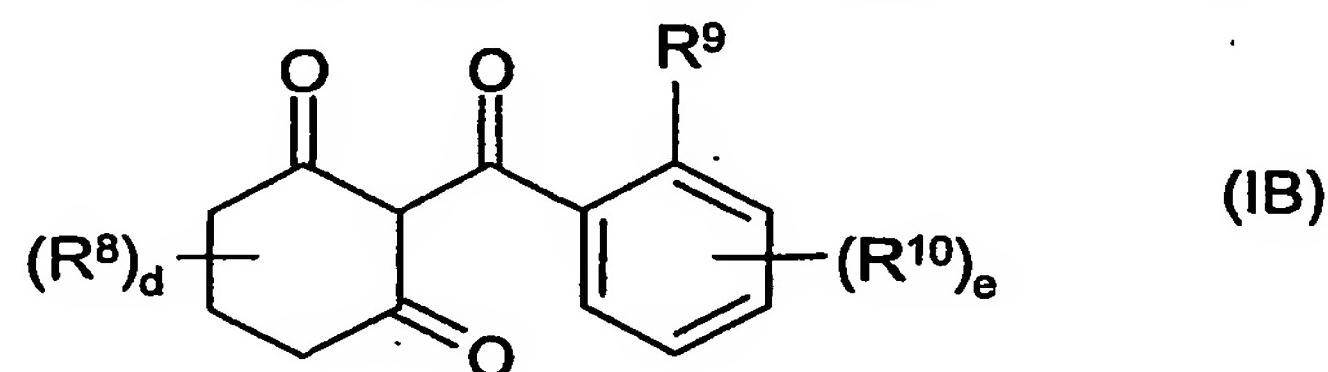
b is zero, one or two; and

c is one or two (where c is two, the groups (CR^4R^5) may be the same or different).

Suitably R is hydrogen; R^1 is cyclopropyl; R^2 is halogen (preferably chloro), $-S(O)_bCH_3$, or C_{1-4} haloalkyl (preferably trifluoromethyl); and a is two.

Particularly preferred compounds of formula (IA) include 5-cyclopropyl-4-(2-methylsulfonyl-4-trifluoromethyl)benzoylisoxazole (isoxaflutole) and 4-(2-chloro-4-methylsulphonyl)benzoyl-5-cyclopropylisoxazole (isoxachlortole).

Suitably, the triketone is a compound of formula (IB),



wherein each R^8 independently represents (C_{1-4}) alkyl or $-CO_2R^{11}$;

R^9 represents a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl or alkoxy group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more groups $-OR^{12}$ or one or more halogen atoms; or a group selected from nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^{13}$, $-S(O)_fR^{12}$, $-O(CH_2)_gOR^{12}$, $-COR^{13}$, $-NR^{13}R^{14}$, $-SO_2NR^{13}R^{14}$, $-CONR^{13}R^{14}$, $-CSNR^{13}R^{14}$ and $-OSO_2R^{15}$;

each R^{10} independently represents halo, nitro, cyano, $S(O)_fR^{16}$, $OS(O)_fR^{16}$, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, carboxy, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl, amino, C_{1-6} alkylamino, C_{1-6} dialkylamino having

independently the stated number of carbon atoms in each alkyl group, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkoxy carbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ dialkylaminocarbonylamino having independently the stated number of carbon atoms in each alkyl group, C₁₋₆ alkoxy carbonyloxy, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁₋₆ dialkylcarbonyloxy, phenylcarbonyl, substituted phenylcarbonyl, phenylcarbonyloxy, substituted phenylcarbonyloxy, phenylcarbonylamino, substituted phenylcarbonylamino, phenoxy or substituted phenoxy;

R¹¹ is C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R¹² represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R¹³ and R¹⁴ each independently represents a hydrogen atom; or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R¹⁵ represents a straight-or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms;

R¹⁶ represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

d is zero or an integer from one to six;

e is zero or an integer from one to four;

f is zero, one or two; and

g is one, two or three.

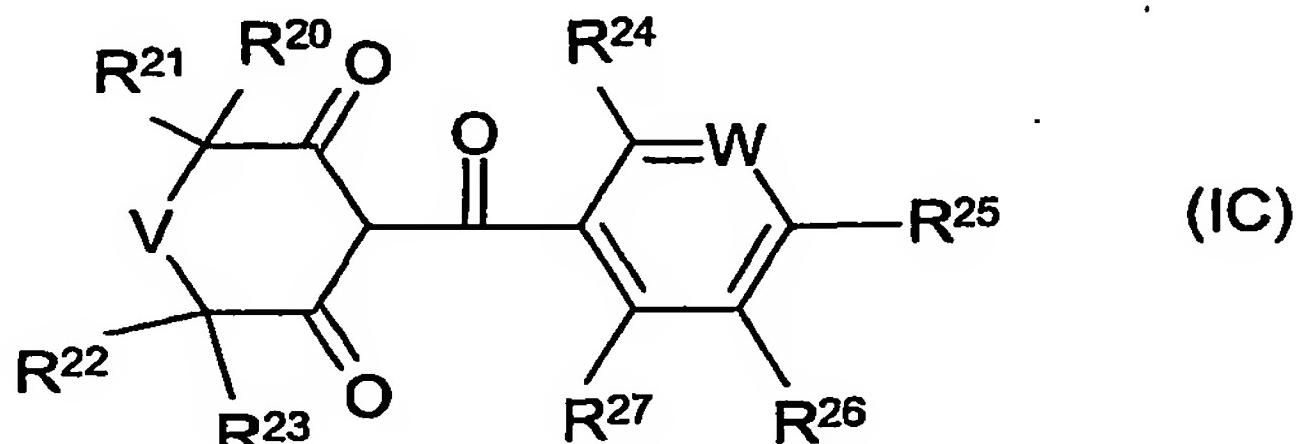
Suitably, R⁹ is chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₄ alkyl, -CF₃, -S(O)_fR¹², or -OR¹²; each R¹⁰ is independently chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₄ alkyl, -CF₃, -OR¹², -OS(O)_fR¹⁶ or -S(O)_fR¹⁶; d is zero and e is one or two.

Preferred compounds of formula (IB) are 2-(2'-nitro-4'-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione (mesotrine), 2-(2'-nitro-4'-methylsulphonyloxybenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione, 2-(2'-chloro-4'-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione

(sulcotrione), 4,4-dimethyl-2-(4-methanesulphonyl-2-nitrobenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione, 2-(2-chloro-3-ethoxy-4-methanesulphonylbenzoyl)-5-methyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione and 2-(2-chloro-3-ethoxy-4-ethanesulphonylbenzoyl)-5-methyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione; most preferably is 2-(2'-nitro-4'-methylsulphonyl benzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione.

The compounds of formula (IB) may exist in enolic tautomeric forms that may give rise to geometric isomers. Furthermore, in certain cases, the various substituents may contribute to optical isomerism and/or stereoisomerism. All such tautomeric forms, racemic mixtures and isomers are included within the scope of the present invention.

Alternatively, the triketone is a compound of formula (IC)



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wherein V is C₁₋₂ alkylene, which may be mono- or poly-substituted by R²⁹; or, when R²¹ and R²² are other than C₂₋₃ alkylene, W may additionally be carbonyl, oxygen or -NR³⁰; W is CR³¹ or N(O)_g;

R²⁰, R²¹, R²² and R²³ are independently hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, phenyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, hydroxycarbonyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl; or R²¹ and R²² together are C₂₋₃ alkylene, which may be mono- or poly-substituted by R²⁸;

R²⁴ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkenyl, C₁₋₂ alkoxy carbonyl- or phenyl-substituted vinyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkynyl, trimethylsilyl-, hydroxy-, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-, C alkoxy carbonyl- or phenyl-substituted ethynyl, C₃₋₆ allenyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, halo- or C₁₋₃ alkoxy methyl-substituted C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₃₋₆ alkenyloxy, C₃₋₆ alkynyloxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₃₋₆ haloalkenyloxy, cyano-C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylthio-C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfinyl-C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl-C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl-C₁₋₄ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylthio, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl-C₁₋₄ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl-C₁₋₄ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl-C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆ alkyl)amino, C₁₋₃ alkoxy-C₁₋₃ alkylamino, C₁₋₃

alkoxy-C₁₋₃ alkyl-N(C₁₋₃ alkyl), C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulfonyl, di(C₁₋₆ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyloxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkylsulfonyloxy, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonylamino, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl-N(C₁₋₄ alkyl), cyano, carbamoyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl, formyl, halogen, rhodano, amino, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylthio-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfinyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl, cyano-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyloxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyloxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, rhodano-C₁₋₄ alkyl, phenyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl, phenoxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, benzyloxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, benzoyloxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, (2-oxiranyl)-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylamino-C₁₋₄ alkyl, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₁₂ alkylthiocarbonyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl or formyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl, or benzylthio, benzylsulfinyl, benzylsulfonyl, benzyloxy, benzyl, phenyl, phenoxy, phenylthio, phenylsulfinyl or phenylsulfonyl, wherein the phenyl-containing groups may themselves be substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ haloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro; or

R²⁴ is a three- to ten-membered monocyclic or fused bicyclic ring system, which may be aromatic, saturated or partially saturated and may contain from 1 to 4 hetero atoms

selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, wherein the ring system is bonded to the group W-containing aromatic ring by way of a C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₂₋₄ alkenylene or C₂₋₄ alkynylene bridge which may be interrupted by oxygen, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-, sulfur, sulfinyl, sulfonyl or by carbonyl, and each ring system may contain no more than two oxygen atoms and no more than two sulfur atoms, and the ring system may itself be mono-, di- or tri-substituted by C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkynyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₃₋₆ alkenyloxy, C₃₋₆ alkynyoxy, hydroxy, mercapto, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ haloalkylthio, C₃₋₆ alkenylthio, C₃₋₆ haloalkenylthio, C₃₋₆ alkynylthio, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₁₋₃ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyl-C₁₋₃ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl-C₁₋₃ alkylthio, cyano-C₁₋₃ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylaminosulfonyl, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, halogen, cyano, nitro, phenyl and/or by benzylthio, wherein phenyl and benzylthio may themselves be substituted on the phenyl ring by C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ haloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro, and wherein substituents on the nitrogen in the heterocyclic ring are other than halogen; or

30 R²⁴ is the group -D₁-D₃ or the group -D₂-D₁-D₃;

R²⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkynyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylthio, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyloxy, hydroxy, mercapto, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆ alkyl)amino, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonylamino, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl-N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-, C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulfonyl, di(C₁₋₆ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, cyano, halogen, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylthio-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfinyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl, triazolyl, phenyl, phenylthio, phenylsulfinyl, phenylsulfonyl or phenoxy, wherein the phenyl-containing groups may be substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ haloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro;

R²⁶ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₃₋₆ alkenyloxy, C₃₋₆ haloalkenyloxy, C₃₋₆ alkynyloxy, C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyloxy, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyloxy, phenylsulfonyloxy, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, C₁₋₄ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, formyl, cyano, halogen, phenyl or phenoxy, wherein the phenyl-containing groups may themselves be substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ haloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro; or

R²⁶ is a three- to ten-membered monocyclic or, together with R²⁵ or R²⁷, fused bicyclic ring system, which may contain from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, wherein, when the ring system is not fused, it is bonded to the W-containing aromatic ring, either directly or by way of a C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₂₋₄ alkenylene or C₂₋₄ alkynylene bridge which may be interrupted by oxygen, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-, sulfur, sulfinyl, sulfonyl or by carbonyl, and the ring system may contain no more than two oxygen atoms and no more than two sulfur atoms, and the ring system may itself be mono-, di- or tri-substituted by C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkynyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₃₋₆ alkenyloxy, C₃₋₆ alkynyloxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ haloalkylthio, C₃₋₆ alkenylthio, C₃₋₆ haloalkenylthio, C₃₋₆ alkynylthio, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₁₋₂ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyl-C₁₋₂ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkoxycarbonyl-C₁₋₂ alkylthio, cyano-C₁₋₄ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylaminosulfonyl, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, halogen, cyano, nitro, phenyl and by/or benzylthio, wherein phenyl and

benzylthio may themselves be substituted on the phenyl ring by C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ haloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro, and wherein substituents on the nitrogen in the heterocyclic ring are other than halogen;

R²⁷ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl,
 5 C₂₋₆ haloalkynyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylthio, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfonyl, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆ alkyl)amino, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl-N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-, C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulfonyl, di(C₁₋₆ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, cyano, halogen, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylthio-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfinyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
 10 phenyl, phenylthio, phenylsulfinyl, phenylsulfonyl or phenoxy, wherein phenyl groups may themselves be substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ haloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro;

R²⁸ and R²⁹ are each independently hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, phenyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, hydroxycarbonyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxycarbonyl;

15 R³⁰ is C₁₋₄ alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl or C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyl;

R³¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₃₋₆ alkenyloxy, C₃₋₆ haloalkenyloxy, C₃₋₆ alkynyloxy, C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyloxy, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyloxy, phenylsulfonyloxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆ alkyl)amino, C₁₋₃ alkoxy-C₁₋₃ alkylamino, C₁₋₃ alkoxy-C₁₋₃ alkyl-N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)-, C₁₋₄ 20 alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, formyl, cyano, halogen, phenyl or phenoxy, wherein the phenyl-containing groups may themselves be substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ haloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro;

or R³¹ is a three- to ten-membered monocyclic or, together with R²⁴ or R²⁵ fused bicyclic ring system, which may be interrupted once or up to three times by heterocyclic substituents selected from oxygen, sulfur, S(O), SO₂, N(R³²), carbonyl and C(=NOR³³), and wherein, when the ring system is not fused, it is bonded to the carbon atom of the substituent W, either directly or by way of a C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₂₋₄ alkenylene or C₂₋₄ alkynylene bridge which may be interrupted by oxygen, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-, sulfur, sulfinyl or by sulfonyl, and the ring system may contain no more than two oxygen atoms and no more than two sulfur atoms, and the ring system may itself be mono-, di- or tri-substituted by C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆

haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkynyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ halo-alkoxy, C₃₋₆ alkenyloxy, C₃₋₆ alkynyloxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ haloalkylthio, C₃₋₆ alkenylthio, C₃₋₆ haloalkenylthio, C₃₋₆ alkynylthio, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-C₁₋₂ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyl-C₁₋₂-alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkoxycarbonyl-C₁₋₂ alkylthio, cyano-C₁₋₄ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆

5 haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylamino-sulfonyl, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, halogen, cyano, nitro, phenyl, benzyloxy and/or by benzylthio, and wherein the phenyl-containing groups may themselves be substituted on the phenyl ring by C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ haloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro, and wherein substituents on the nitrogen in the heterocyclic ring 10 are other than halogen;

or R³¹ is the group -D₄-D₆ or the group -D₅-D₄-D₆;

R³² is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylthio-C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfinyl-C₁₋₄-alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl-C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl or phenyl, wherein the phenyl groups may themselves be substituted by C₁₋₄ 15 alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₄ alkyl-SO₂, C₁₋₄ alkyl-S(O)₂O, C₁₋₄ haloalkylthio, C₁₋₄ haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl-SO₂, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl-S(O)₂O, C₁₋₄ alkyl-S(O)₂NH, C₁₋₄ alkyl-S(O)₂N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-, halogen, nitro or by cyano;

R³³ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₃₋₄ alkenyl, C₃₋₄ alkynyl or benzyl;

20 h is 0 or 1;

D₁ is oxygen, -O(CO)-, -(CO)O-, -O(CO)O-, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-O-, -O-N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-, thio, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, -SO₂N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)SO₂-, -N(C₁₋₂ alkoxy-C₁₋₂ alkyl)SO₂- or -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-;

25 D₂ is a C₁₋₆ alkylene, C₃₋₆ alkenylene or C₃₋₆ alkynylene chain, which may be mono- or poly-substituted by halogen or by D₇, the unsaturated bonds of the chain not being bonded directly to the substituent D₁;

D₃ and D₆ are each independently of the other a C₁₋₈ alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkenyl or C₃₋₆ alkynyl group, which may be mono- or poly-substituted by halogen, hydroxy, amino, formyl, nitro, cyano, mercapto, carbamoyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkenyl, 30 C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkynyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, halo-substituted C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆

alkenyloxy, C₃₋₆ alkynyloxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₃₋₆ haloalkenyloxy, cyano-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alcoxycarbonyl-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alcoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl,
5 C₁₋₆ haloalkylthio, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfonyl, oxiranyl which may itself be substituted by C₁₋₆ alkyl, (3-oxetanyl)-oxy which may itself be substituted by C₁₋₆ alkyl, benzyloxy, benzylthio, benzylsulfinyl, benzylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆ alkyl)amino, C₁₋₄ alkyl-S(O)₂O, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, rhodano, phenyl, phenoxy, phenylthio, phenylsulfinyl or by phenylsulfonyl, and wherein the phenyl- or benzyl-containing groups
10 may themselves be substituted by one or more C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy or nitro groups; or

D₃ and D₆ are each independently of the other phenyl, which may be mono- or poly-substituted by C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy or by nitro; or

15 D₃ and D₆ are each independently of the other C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy- or C₁₋₆ alkyl-substituted C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, 3-oxetanyl or C₁₋₆ alkyl-substituted 3-oxetanyl; or

D₃ and D₆ are each independently of the other a three- to ten-membered monocyclic or fused bicyclic ring system, which may be aromatic, saturated or partially saturated and may contain from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, wherein the 20 ring system is bonded to the substituent D₁ or D₄ directly or by way of a C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₂₋₄ alkenylene, C₂₋₄ alkynylene, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-C₁₋₄ alkylene, -S(O)-C₁₋₄ alkylene or -SO₂-C₁₋₄ alkylene group, and each ring system may contain no more than two oxygen atoms and no more than two sulfur atoms, and the ring system may itself be mono-, di- or tri-substituted by C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkynyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₃₋₆ alkenyloxy, C₃₋₆ alkynyloxy, mercapto, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ haloalkylthio, C₃₋₆ alkenylthio, C₃₋₆ haloalkenylthio, C₃₋₆ alkynylthio, C₁₋₃ alkoxy-C₁₋₃ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkylcarbonyl-C₁₋₂ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alcoxycarbonyl-C₁₋₂ alkylthio, cyano-C₁₋₃ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C₁₋₂ alkylaminosulfonyl, di(C₁₋₂ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, 25 C₁₋₆ carbonylamino, halogen, cyano, nitro, phenyl, benzyloxy and/or by benzylthio, wherein
30 C₁₋₆ carbonylamino, halogen, cyano, nitro, phenyl, benzyloxy and/or by benzylthio, wherein

the phenyl groups may themselves be substituted on the phenyl ring by C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ haloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro, and wherein the substituents on the nitrogen in the heterocyclic ring are other than halogen;

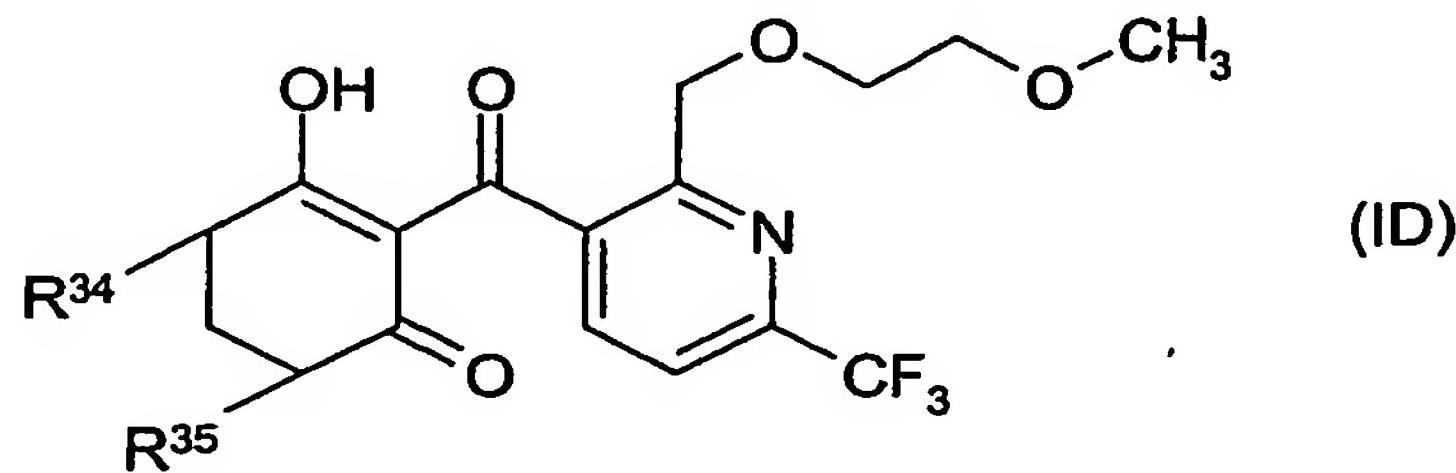
D₄ is oxygen, -O(CO)-, -(CO)O-, -O(CO)O-, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-O-, -O-N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-, 5 sulfur, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, -SO₂N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-, -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)SO₂-, -N(C₁₋₂ alkoxy-C₁₋₂ alkyl)SO₂- or -N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)-;

D₅ is a C₁₋₆ alkylene, C₃₋₆ alkenylene or C₃₋₆ alkynylene chain, which may be mono- or poly-substituted by halogen or by D₈, the unsaturated bonds of the chain not being bonded directly to the substituent D₄;

10 D₇ and D₈ are each independently of the other hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, (C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl)oxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyloxy;

and agronomically acceptable salts/N-oxides/isomers/enantiomers of such compounds.

15 Alternatively, the triketone may be present in an enolic form and is a compound of formula (ID)

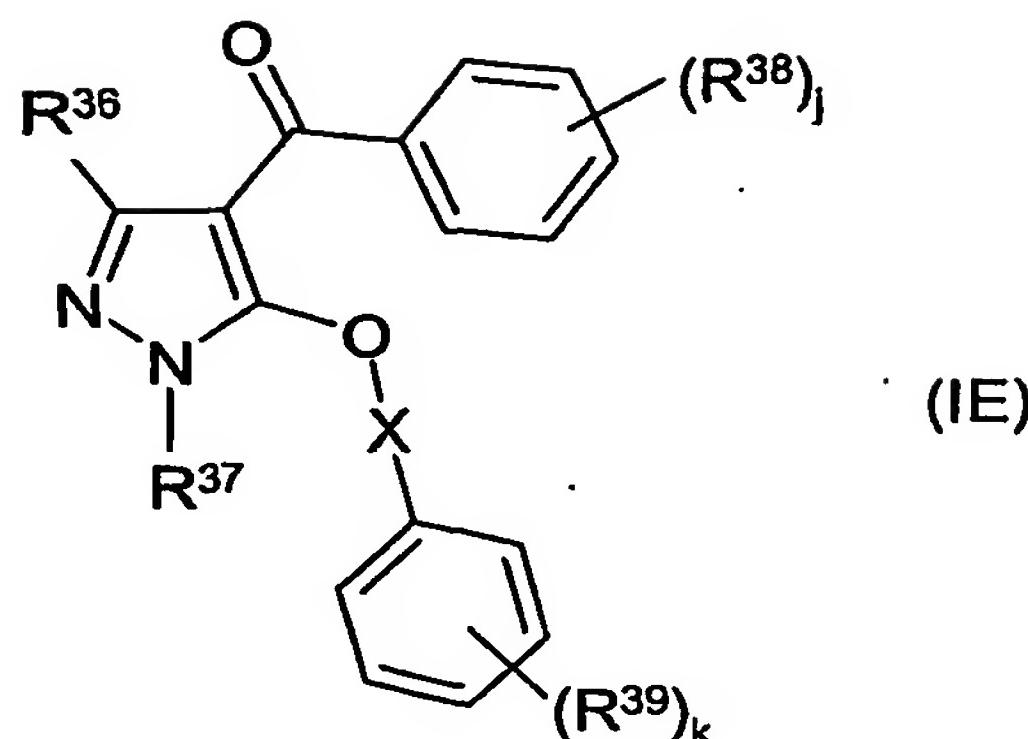


wherein R³⁴ and R³⁵ are both hydrogen or together form an ethylene bridge.

20 The compound of formula (ID) wherein both R³⁴ and R³⁵ are hydrogen is hereinafter referred to as compound (IDa), and the compound of formula (ID) wherein R³⁴ and R³⁵ together form an ethylene bridge is hereinafter referred to as compound (IDb).

Suitably, the pyrazole is a compound of formula (IE)

12



wherein R³⁶, R³⁷, R³⁸ and R³⁹ are each independently selected from hydrogen, halo or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

X is -SO₂- or -CH₂CO-;

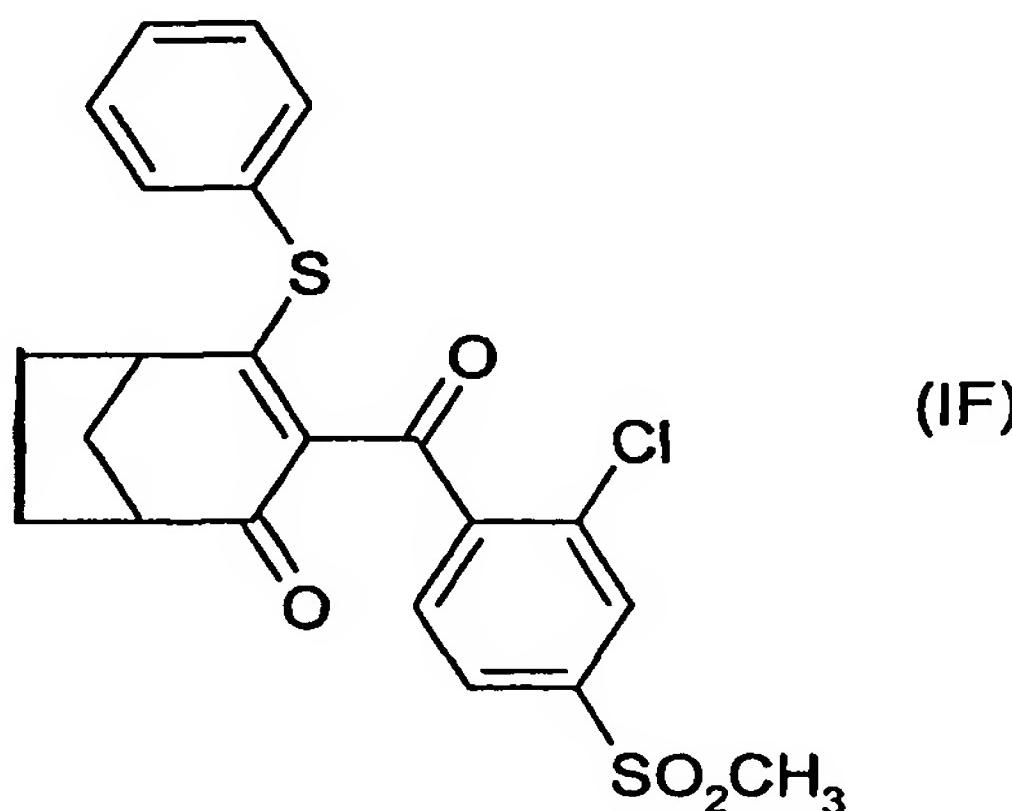
5 j is 2 or 3; and

k is zero or 1.

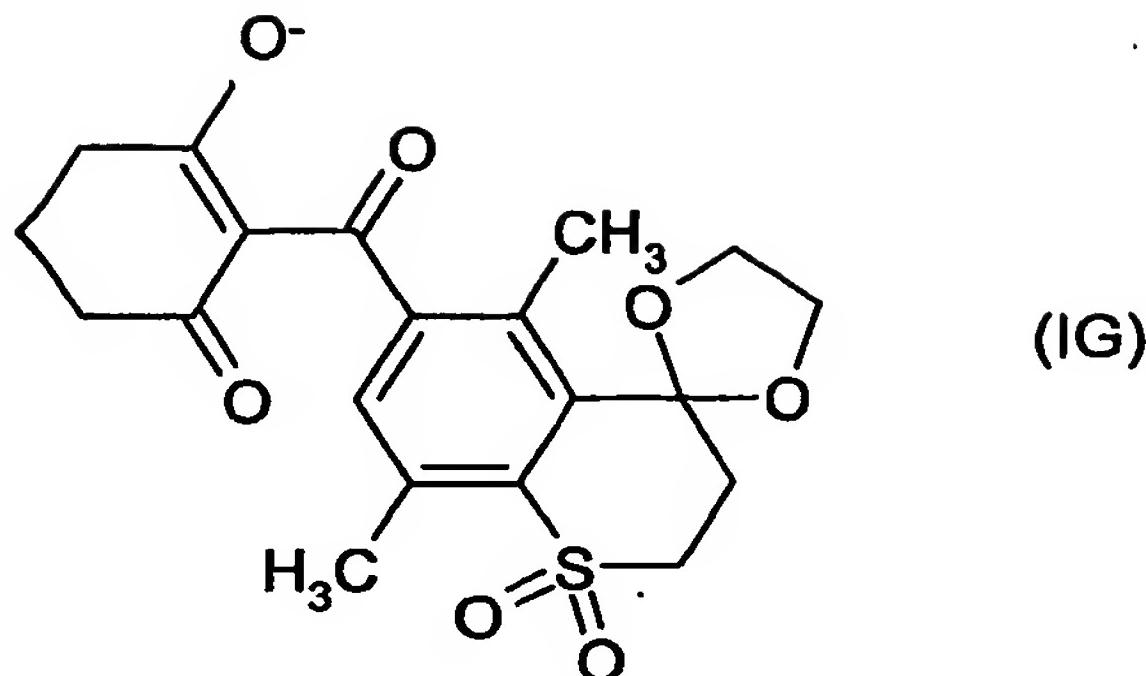
Suitably R³⁶, R³⁷, R³⁸ and R³⁹ are each independently hydrogen, chloro or methyl.

Preferred compounds of formula (IE) include 2-[[4-(2,4-dichloro-3-methylbenzoyl)-1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl]oxy]-1-(4-methylphenyl)ethanone (benzofenap), (2,4-dichlorophenyl)[1,3-dimethyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]oxy]-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl]methanone (pyrazolynate) and 2-[[4-(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)-1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl]oxy]-1-phenylethanone (pyrazoxifen).

Benzobicyclon is a compound of formula (IF)



15 Ketospiradox is a compound of formula (IG)

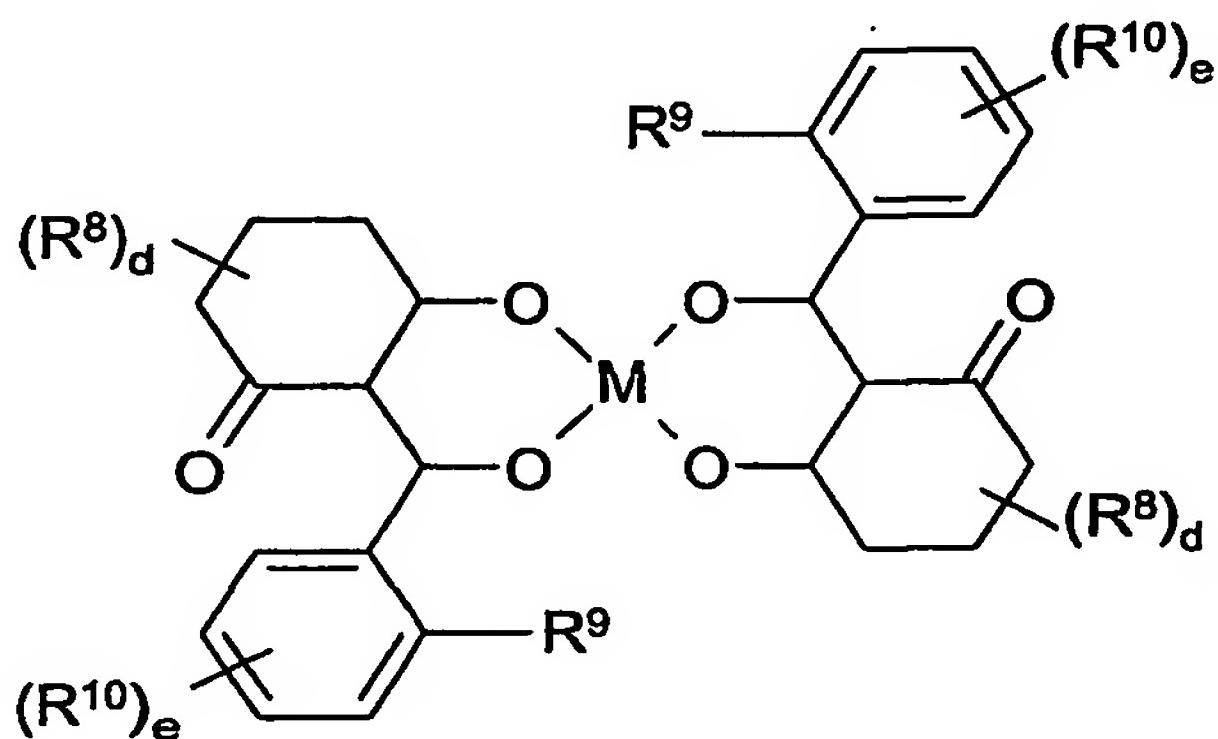


Agriculturally acceptable salts for use in the present invention include salts the cations or anions of which are known and accepted in the art for the formation of salts for agricultural or horticultural use. Useful salts for practice of the invention may be formed 5 from compounds of formulae (IA) to (IG) using amines, alkali metal bases, alkaline earth metal bases, quaternary ammonium bases, and metal chelates. Also included are metal chelates of compounds of formulae (IA) to (IG), particularly compounds of formula (IB), including salts of di- and trivalent transition metal ions such as Cu^{+2} , Zn^{+2} , Co^{+2} , Ni^{+2} , Ca^{+2} , Al^{+3} , Ti^{+3} , Fe^{+2} , Fe^{+3} , Ba^{+2} , Cs^{+2} , and also $[\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_7]_3\text{N}$.

10 Examples of suitable amines for ammonium salt formation that come into consideration are ammonia as well as primary, secondary and tertiary C_{1-18} alkylamines, C_{1-4} hydroxyalkylamines and C_{2-4} alkoxyalkylamines, for example methylamine, ethylamine, n-propylamine, isopropylamine, the four butylamine isomers, n-amylamine, isoamylamine, hexylamine, heptylamine, octylamine, nonylamine, decylamine, pentadecylamine, 15 hexadecylamine, heptadecylamine, octadecylamine, methyl-ethylamine, methyl-isopropylamine, methyl-hexylamine, methyl-nonylamine, methyl-pentadecylamine, methyl-octadecylamine, ethyl-butylamine, ethyl-heptylamine, ethyl-octylamine, hexyl-heptylamine, hexyl-octylamine, dimethylamine, diethylamine, di-n-propylamine, diisopropylamine, di-n-butylamine, di-n-amylamine, diisoamylamine, dihexylamine, diheptylamine, dioctylamine, 20 ethanolamine, n-propanolamine, isopropanolamine, N,N-diethanolamine, N-ethylpropanolamine, N-butylethanolamine, allylamine, n-butenyl-2-amine, n-pentenyl-2-amine, 2,3-dimethylbutenyl-2-amine, dibutenyl-2-amine, n-hexenyl-2-amine, propylenediamine, trimethylamine, triethylamine, tri-n-propylamine, triisopropylamine, tri-n-butylamine, triisobutylamine, tri-sec-butylamine, tri-n-amylamine, methoxyethylamine

and ethoxyethylamine; heterocyclic amines, for example pyridine, quinoline, isoquinoline, morpholine, piperidine, pyrrolidine, indoline, quinuclidine and azepine; primary aryl amines for example anilines, methoxyanilines, ethoxyanilines, o-, m- and p-toluidines, phenylenediamines, benzidines, naphthylamines and o-, m- and p-chloroanilines; but especially triethylamine, isopropylamine and diisopropylamine.

The selection of a particular metal ion to form a metal chelate compound of a compound of formulae (IA) to (IG); particularly (IB), will depend upon the dione compound to be chelated. For example, metal chelates of compounds of formula (IB) and their preparation are described, *inter alia*, in PCT Publication No. WO97/27748. Metal chelates of compounds of formula (IB) have the general structure:



wherein R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} , d and e are as hereinbefore defined, and

wherein M represents a di- or trivalent metal ion such as Cu^{+2} , Zn^{+2} , Co^{+2} , Ni^{+2} , Ca^{+2} , Al^{+3} , Ti^{+3} , Fe^{+2} , Fe^{+3} , Ba^{+2} , Cs^{+2} and also $[CH_3(CH_2)_7]_3N$. The preferred metal ions are divalent transition metal ions, particularly Cu^{+2} , Co^{+2} , Ni^{+2} , and Zn^{+2} ; with Cu^{+2} being especially preferred. Any appropriate salt which would be a source of a di- or trivalent metal ion may be used to form the metal chelate of the dione compound in accordance with this invention. Particularly suitable salts include: chlorides, sulphates, nitrates, carbonates, phosphates and acetates.

Insecticides suitable for use in the present invention include Abamectin, Acephate, Acetamiprid, Acrinathrin, Acrylonitrile, Alanycarb, Aldicarb, Aldoxycarb, Aldrin, Allethrin (1*R*- isomers), Allyxycarb, Alpha-cypermethrin, Phosphine (Aluminium Phosphide), Amidithion, Aminocarb, Amiton, Amitraz, Anabasine, Athidathion, Azadirachtin,

Azamethiphos, Azinphos-ethyl, Azinphos-methyl, Azothoate, *Bacillus sphaericus*, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, *Bacillus thuringiensis* delta endotoxins, Barium polysulfide, Bendiocarb, Benfuracarb, Bensultap, Benzoximate, Beta-cyfluthrin, Beta-cypermethrin, Bifenthrin, Bioallethrin, Bioallethrin S-cyclopentenyl isomer, Biopermethrin, Bioresmethrin,
5 Bistrifluron, Borax, Bromfenvinfos, Bromophos, Bromophos-ethyl, Bufencarb, Buprofezin, Butacarb, Butathiofos, Butocarboxim, Butonate, Butoxycarboxim, Cadusafos, Hydrogen cyanide, Calcium polysulfide, Camphechlor, Carbanolate, Carbaryl, Carbofuran, Carbon disulfide, Carbon tetrachloride, Carbophenothion, Carbosulfan, Cartap, Chlorbicyclen, Chlordane, Chlordecone, Chlordimeform, Chlorethoxyfos, Chlorfenapyr, Chlorfenvinphos,
10 Chlorfluazuron, Chlormephos, Chloropicrin, Chlorphoxim, Chlorprazophos, Chlorpyrifos, Chlorpyrifos-methyl, Chlorthiophos, Chromafenozide, Clothianidin, Coumaphos, Coumithoate, Crotoxyphos, Crufomate, Cryolite, Cyanofenphos, Cyanophos, Cyanthoate, Cycloprothrin, Cyfluthrin, Cyhalothrin, Cypermethrin, Alpha-cypermethrin, Beta-cypermethrin, Theta-cypermethrin, Zeta-cypermethrin, Cyphenothon, Cyromazine,
15 Dazomet, Bromo-DDT, DDT, pp'-DDT, Decarbofuran, Deltamethrin, Demephion, Demephion-O, Demephion-S, Demeton, Demeton-O, Demeton-S, Demeton-methyl, Demeton-O-methyl, Demeton-S-methyl, Demeton-S-methylsulphon, Diafenthiuron, Dialifos, Diazinon, Dicaphthon, Dichlofenthion, Dichlorvos, Dicrotaphos, Dicyclanil, Dieldrin, Diflubenzuron, Dimefox, Dimethoate, Dimethrin, Dimethylvinphos, Dimetilan,
20 Dinex, Dinotefuran, Diofenolan, Dioxabenzofos, Dioxacarb, Dioxathion, Disulfoton, Dithicrofos, DNOC, Emamectin, EMPC, Empenthrin, Endosulfan, Endothion, EPN, Epofenonane, Esfenvalerate, Ethiofencarb, Ethion, Ethoate-methyl, Ethoprophos, Ethylene dibromide, Ethylene dichloride, Etufenprox, Etrimfos, Famphur, Fenchlrophos, Fenethacarb, Fenfluthrin, Fenitrothion, Fenobucarb, Fenoxy carb, Fenpirithrin, Fenpropothrin,
25 Fensulfothion, Fenthion, Fenvalerate, Fipronil, Flonicamid, Flucofuron, Flucycloxuron, Flucythrinate, Flucythrinate, Flucythrinate, Flufenprox, Flumethrin, Fluvalinate, Fonofos, Formetanate, Formothion, Fosmethylan, Fospirate, Fosthiazate, Fosthietan, Furathiocarb, Furethrin, gamma-HCH, GY-81, Halofenozide, Heptachlor, Heptenophos, Hexaflumuron, Hydramethylnon, Hydrogen cyanide, Hydroprene, Imidacloprid, Imiprothrin, Indoxacarb,
30 IPSP, Isazofos, Isobenzan, Isodrin, Isofenphos, Isoprocarb, Isopropyl O-

(methoxyaminothiophosphoryl)salicylat, Isothioate, Isoxathion, Jodfenphos, Kelevan, Kinoprene, Lambda-cyhalothrin, Lirimfos, Lufenuron, Lythidathion, Phosphine, Malathion, Mazidox, Mecarbam, Mecarphon, Menazon, Mephosfolan, Mercurous chloride, Mesulfenfos, Metam, Methacrifos, Methamidophos, Methidathion, Methiocarb,
5 Methocrotophos, Methomyl, Methoprene, Methothrin, Methoxychlor, Methoxyfenozide, Methyl bromide, Methyl isothiocyanate, Metolcarb, Metoxadiazone, Mevinphos, Mexacarbate, Milbemectin, Mipafox, Mirex, Monocrotophos, Morphothion, Naled, Nicotine, Nifluridide, Nitrenpyram, Nithiazine, Nitrilacarb, Novaluron, Ölsäure, Omethoate, Oxamyl, Oxydemeton-methyl, Oxydeprofos, Oxydisulfoton, Parathion, Parathion-methyl,
10 Pentachlorophenol, Permethrin, Petroleum Öl, Phenkapton, Phenothrin, Phenthionate, Phorate, Phosalone, Phosfolan, Phosmet, Phosnichlor, Phoshamidon, Phoxim, Phoxim-methyl, Pirimetaphos, Pirimicarb, Pirimiphos-ethyl, Pirimiphos-methyl, Prallethrin, Primidophos, Profenofos, Promacyl, Promecarb, Propaphos, Propetamphos, Propoxur, Prothiofos, Prothoate, Pymetrozine, Pyraclofos, Pyrazophos, Pyresmethrin, Pyrethrins, Pyridaben,
15 Pyridaphenthion, Pyrimidifen, Pyrimitate, Pyriproxyfen, Quinalphos, Quinalphos-methyl, Quinothion, Resmethrin, Rotenone, RU 15525, Sabadilla, Schradan, Silafluofen, Sodium fluoride, Sodium hexafluorosilicate, Pentachlorophenol, Sophamide, Spinosad, Sulcofuron, Sulfluramid, Sulfotep, Sulfuryl fluoride, Sulprofos, Tau-fluvalinate, Tazimcarb, TDE, Tebufenozide, Tebupirimfos, Teflubenzuron, Tefluthrin, Temephos, TEPP, Terallethrin,
20 Terbufos, Tetrachlorvinphos, Tetramethrin, Tetramethrin [(1R)- isomers], Thiacloprid, Thiamethoxam, Thicrofos, Thiocarboxime, Thiocyclam, Thiodicarb, Thifanox, Thiometon, Thiosultap-sodium, Tolfenpyrad, Tralomethrin, Transfluthrin, Transpermethrin, Triazamate, Triazofos, Trichlorfon, Trichloronat, Tridec-4-enyl acetate, Trifenofo, Triflumuron, Trimethacarb, Tripene, Vamidothion, XMC, Xyllylcarb, Spirodiclofen, Acetoprole,
25 Fluacrypyrim, Pyridalyl, Noviflumuron, Flufenerim, Amidoflumet, Ethiprole, Acequinocyl, Etoxazole, Bifenazate, Spiromesifen and ZKI 8901. The above insecticides are described in the Pesticide Manual, 12th ed., British Crop Protection Council 2000.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the insecticide is not lambda-cyhalothrin when the HPPD-inhibiting herbicide is 2-(2'-nitro-4'-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione (mesotrione).

Particularly preferred combinations of HPPD-inhibiting herbicide salt and insecticide include agrochemically acceptable salts of isoxaflutole, isoxachlortole, mesotrione, sulcotrione, Compound (IDa), Compound (IDb), benzofenap, pyrazolynate, pyrazoxyfen, Benzobicyclon or Ketospiradox with chlorpyrifos, chlorpyrifos-methyl, terbufos, tefluthrin 5 or thiamethoxam.

In a further preferred embodiment of the invention, if the insecticide is terbufos or chlorpyrifos and the HPPD-inhibiting herbicide is 2-(2'-nitro-4'-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione (mesotrione), the herbicide is suitably given post-emergence.

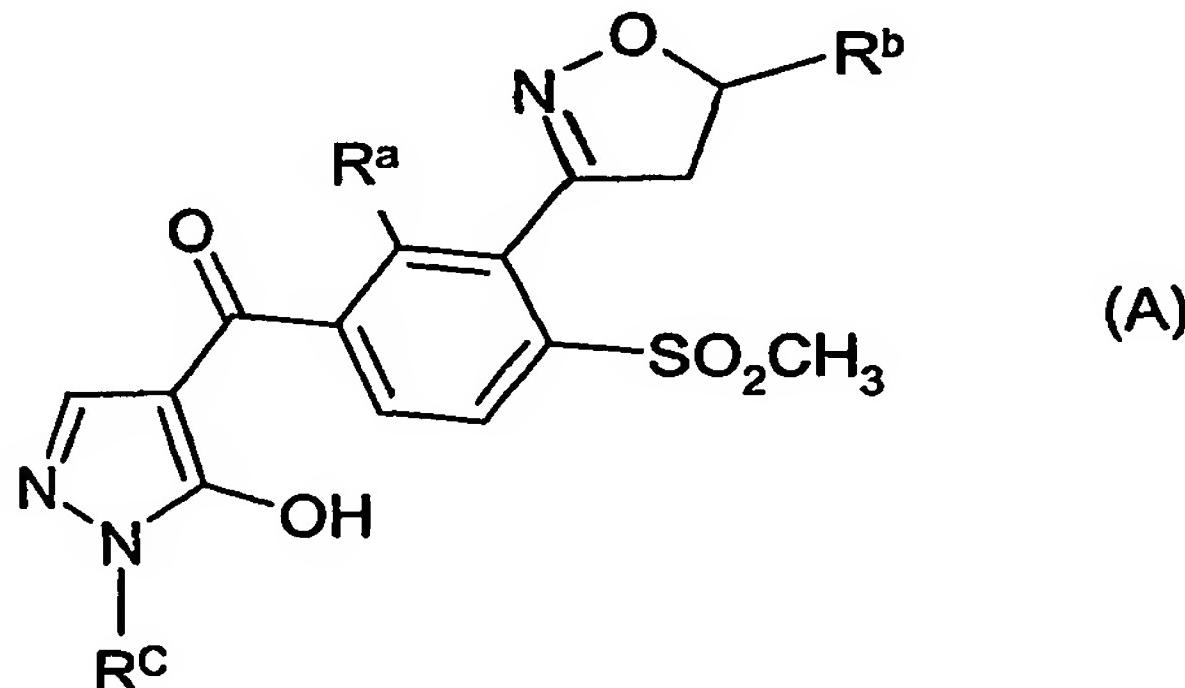
The pesticidally active combination according to the invention can be used against a large number of agronomically important weeds, such as *Stellaria*, *Nasturtium*, *Agrostis*, *Digitaria*, *Avena*, *Setaria*, *Sinapis*, *Lolium*, *Solanum*, *Phaseolus*, *Echinochloa*, *Scirpus*, *Monochoria*, *Sagittaria*, *Bromus*, *Alopecurus*, *Sorghum halepense*, *Rottboellia*, *Cyperus*, *Abutilon*, *Sida*, *Xanthium*, *Amaranthus*, *Chenopodium*, *Ipomoea*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Galium*, *Viola* and *Veronica*. The combination according to the invention is suitable for all methods 10 of application conventionally used in agriculture, e.g. pre-emergence application, post-emergence application and seed dressing. Suitably, at least the HPPD-inhibiting herbicide is applied post-emergence, in particular when applied with a organophosphate or carbamate insecticide. The combination according to the invention is suitable especially for controlling 15 weeds in crops of useful plants, such as cereals, rape, sugar beet, sugar cane, plantation crops, rice, maize and soybeans, and also for non-selective weed control. "Crops" are to be understood also to include those crops which have been made tolerant to herbicides or 20 classes of herbicides as a result of conventional methods of breeding or genetic engineering. The components used in the combination of the invention can be applied in a variety of ways known to those skilled in the art, at various concentrations. The rate at which the 25 herbicidal components are applied will depend upon the particular type of weed to be controlled, the degree of control required, and the timing and method of application. In general, the components can be applied at an application rate of between about 10 g a.i./hectare (g/ha) and about 7500 g a.i./ha, based on the total amount of active ingredient. An application rate of between about 50 g a.i./ha and 5000 g a.i./ha is preferred. Suitably, the 30 HPPD-inhibiting herbicide salt is applied at a rate of 1-500 g a.i./ha, preferably 50-250 g

a.i./ha; and the insecticide compound is applied at a rate of 5-2500 g a.i./ha, preferably 50-2000 g a.i./ha. In an especially preferred embodiment of this invention, the components are administered in relative amounts sufficient to provide an application rate of at least 2000 g a.i./ha, of which the HPPD-inhibiting herbicide salt provides at least 100 g/ha. Generally the 5 mixing ratios (by weight) of HPPD and Insecticide compound are from 1:2000 to 2000:1; preferably 1:200 to 200:1.

The components used in the combination of the invention may be administered simultaneously or sequentially. If administered sequentially, the components may be administered in any order in a suitable timescale, for example the insecticide may be 10 administered at planting and the HPPD-inhibiting herbicide salt administered post-emergent.

If the components are administered simultaneously, they may be administered separately or as a tank mix or as a pre-formulated mixture of all the components or as a pre-formulated mixture of some of the components tank mixed with the remaining components.

Therefore, a yet further aspect of the invention provides a pesticidally active pre-mix 15 composition comprising a HPPD-inhibiting herbicide in the form of an agrochemically acceptable salt and an insecticide, provided that the HPPD-inhibiting herbicide is not a compound of formula (A)



wherein R^a is C₁₋₂ alkyl or chloro; R^b is hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and R^c is C₁₋₄ alkyl.

A yet further aspect of the invention provides a pesticidally active combination or 20 pre-mix composition comprising an HPPD inhibiting herbicide in the form of a salt and an insecticide as hereinbefore defined, in combination with one or more additional active ingredients. Such additional active ingredients may be other herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, or the like or safeners. In particular, the one or more additional active

ingredients are herbicides and/or safeners. Examples of suitable additional herbicides and/or safeners for use in the present invention include atrazine, terbutylazine, metolachlor, s-metolachlor, benoxacor, furilazole, dichlormid, flurazole acetochlor, p-dimethenamid, glyphosate, cloquintocet, fluxofenim, nicosulfuron, rimsulfuron, foramsulfuron, isoxadifene, prosulfuron, primisulfuron, dicamba, trifloxsulfuron and the like. The pesticidal combination may contain, in addition to the main two components, an additional one, two, three, four or more components of the additional herbicides and/or safeners listed above.

The present invention is also directed to methods of controlling undesired plant growth in crops of useful plants, said method comprising the application of a pesticidally active amount of the combination or pre-mix composition of the invention to the cultivated plant or its locus. The method is especially useful where the cultivated plant is maize or a cereal.

The present invention will now be further described with reference to the following examples.

15

Example 1:

Field tests were conducted in the following way: Corn was seeded with standard sowing implements and grown under natural conditions until the 2-3 leaf stage of corn was reached. Corn with or without insecticide treatments applied at seeding was grown at the same time. At 2-3 leaf stage, the herbicides only or in combination with the insecticide, if the insecticide has not been applied at seeding, was applied broadcast foliar over the top. At highest phytotoxicity levels for corn at five days after application and at maximal weed control levels at 16 days after application, the trial was evaluated. The results are shown in the following Table I:

25

Table I

		Crop/Variety		Corn 'NK58D1'	Sweet Corn 'Jubilee SS'	Weed/ Amaranthus retroflexus
All post applications with: COC @ 1% V/V + UAN @ 2.5% V/V	Rating Data Type		Phytotox.	Phytotox.	Weed Control	
	Rating Unit Scale		%	%	%	
	Evaluation @ Days after last application		5	5	16	
	Scale Min – Max		0-100	0-100	0-100	
Trt	Appln. Timing	Treatment/Product	a.i. rate	Rate Unit		
1		Check untreated			0	0
2	Post	Mesotrione	105	GA/ Ha	3.8	16.3
3	Post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + benoxacor	105(a.e) + 1053 + 52.5	GA/ Ha	0	71.3
4	Post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + atrazine + benoxacor	105(a.e) + 1053 + 394 + 52.5	GA/ Ha	2	1.3
5	Post	Mesotrione-Cu	105(a.e.)	GA/ Ha	0	87.5
6	Post	Mesotrione	210	GA/ Ha	8.8	15
7	Post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + benoxacor	210(a.e) + 2105 + 105	GA/ Ha	0	88.8
8	Post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + atrazine + benoxacor	210(a.e) + 2100 + 788 + 105	GA/ Ha	6.3	1.3
9	Post	Mesotrione-Cu	210(a.e)	GA/ Ha	0	95
10	In furrow at seeding	Chlorpyrifos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M	0	0
11	In furrow at seeding	Chlorpyrifos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M	6.3	30
	Followed post	Mesotrione	105	GA/ Ha		88.8

12	In furrow at seeding	Chlorpyrifos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	0	0	71.3
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + benoxacor	105(a.e) + 1053 + 52.5				
13	In furrow at seeding	Chlorpyrifos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	1.3	1.3	95
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + atrazine + benoxacor	105(a.e) + 1053 + 394 + 52.5				
14	In furrow at seeding	Chlorpyrifos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	0	0	82.5
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu	105(a.e)				
15	In furrow at seeding	Chlorpyrifos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	15	28.8	95
	Followed post	Mesotrione	210				
16	In furrow at seeding	Chlorpyrifos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	1.3	0	93.8
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + benoxacor	210(a.e) + 2105 + 105				
17	In furrow at seeding	Chlorpyrifos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	10	5	95
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + atrazine + benoxacor	210(a.e) + 2100 + 788 + 105				
18	In furrow at seeding	Chlorpyrifos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	0.8	0	95
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu	210(a.e)				
19	In furrow at seeding	Terbufos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M	0	0	0

20	In furrow at seeding	Terbufos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	13.8	43.8	88.8
	Followed post	Mesotrione	105				
21	In furrow at seeding	Terbufos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	0	0	73.8
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + benoxacor	105(a.e) + 1053 + 52.5				
22	In furrow at seeding	Terbufos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	2.5	0	93.8
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + atrazine + benoxacor	105(a.e) + 1053 + 394 + 52.5				
23	In furrow at seeding	Terbufos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	0	0	83.8
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu	105(a.e)				
24	In furrow at seeding	Terbufos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	26.3	43.8	95
	Followed post	Mesotrione	210				
25	In furrow at seeding	Terbufos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	2	0	76.3
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + benoxacor	210(a.e) + 2105 + 105				
26	In furrow at seeding	Terbufos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M GA/ Ha	7.5	7.5	95
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + atrazine + benoxacor	210(a.e) + 2100 + 788 + 105				

27	In furrow at seeding	Terbufos	11.2	GA/ 100 Row M	1.3	0	95
	Followed post	Mesotrione-Cu	210(a.e)	GA/ Ha			
28	Post	Chlorpyrifos	1120	GA/ Ha	0	0	0
29	Post tank mix /foliar	Chlorpyrifos	1120	GA/ Ha	4603	61.3	95
		Mesotrione	105	GA/ Ha			
30	Post tankmix /foliar	Chlorpyrifos	1120	GA/ Ha	3.8	2.5	81.3
		Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + benoxacor	105(a.e) + 1053 + 52.5	GA/ Ha			
31	Post tankmix /foliar	Chlorpyrifos	1120	GA/ Ha	7	8.8	93.8
		Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + atrazine + benoxacor	105(a.e) + 1050 + 394 + 52.5	GA/ Ha			
32	Post tankmix /foliar	Chlorpyrifos	1120	GA/ Ha	5	8.8	91.3
		Mesotrione-Cu	105(a.e)	GA/ Ha			
33	Post tankmix /foliar	Chlorpyrifos	1120	GA/ Ha	70	75	92.5
		Mesotrione	210	GA/ Ha			
34	Post tankmix /foliar	Chlorpyrifos	1120	GA/ Ha	8.8	3.3	93.8
		Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + benoxacor	210(a.e) + 2105 + 105	GA/ Ha			
35	Post tankmix /foliar	Chlorpyrifos	1120	GA/ Ha	20	10	95
		Mesotrione-Cu + s- metolachlor + atrazine + benoxacor	210(a.e) + 2100 + 788 + 105	GA/ Ha			
36	Post tankmix /foliar	Chlorpyrifos	1120	GA/ Ha	8.8	12.5	95
		Mesotrione-Cu	210(a.e)	GA/ Ha			

Example 2:

Insecticide pre-plant incorporated followed by post application of the herbicide

Prior to the planting of corn and weed, the substrate was filled into plastic pots and the different insecticides were applied with glasshouse spray equipment on bare soil at rates indicated in the results table. After the insecticide application, the substrate in the pots was mixed up in order to get an even distribution of the insecticide throughout the pot. Crop and weed were planted following this procedure and grown under standard glasshouse conditions allowing optimal plant growth until 2-3 leaf stage. Then the herbicides were applied according to the rates indicated in the results table post emergent foliar over the top including standard adjuvants. The plants were visually evaluated on a scale of 0-100% wherein 0 % indicated no phytotoxicity and 100% indicated full control or death. 0-15% indicates acceptable crop tolerance, 85-100 % acceptable weed control. The evaluation was done at the time when maximal phytotoxicity or activity occurred. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

		Crop/Variety	Com Cecilia	Weed/ Solanum Nigrum
All post applications with: COC @ 1% V/V + UAN @ 2.5% V/V	Rating Data Type	Phytotox.	Weed Control	
	Rating Unit Scale	%	%	
	Evaluation @ Days after last application	20	43	
	Scale Min – Max	0-100	0-100	
Trt	Appln. Timing	Treatment/Product	a.i. rate/ GA/Ha	
1	Post	Mesotrione	400	0
			200	0
			100	5
2	Post	Mesotrione-Cu	400	0
			200	0
			100	5
3	Pre-plant incorporated	Chlorpyrifos-methyl	1000	
	Post	Mesotrione	400	30
			200	20
			100	20
				98

4	Pre-plant incorporated	Chlorpyrifos-methyl	1000		
	Post	Mesotrione-Cu	400 200 100	0 0 0	100 100 100
5	Pre-plant incorporated	Terbufos	1000		
	Post	Mesotrione	400 200 100	30 30 20	100 100 100
6	Pre-plant incorporated	Terbufos	1000		
	Post	Mesotrione-Cu	400 200 100	0 0 0	100 100 98
7	Pre-plant incorporated	Tefluthrin	1000		
	Post	Mesotrione	400 200 100	30 30 25	100 100 98
8	Pre-plant incorporated	Tefluthrin	1000		
	Post	Mesotrione-Cu	400 200 100	0 0 0	100 100 100
9	Pre-plant incorporated	Thiamethoxam	1000		
	Post	Mesotrione	400 200 100	30 30 20	100 95 100
10	Pre-plant incorporated	Thiamethoxam	1000		
	Post	Mesotrione-Cu	400 200 100	0 0 0	100 100 100
11	Post	(ICb)	200 100 50	25 5 5	98 98 98
12	Post	(ICb)-Cu	200 100 50	0 0 5	85 90 85
13	Pre-plant incorporated	Chlorpyrifos-methyl	1000		
	Post	(ICb)	200 100 50	40 30 20	100 100 100

14	Pre-plant incorporated Post	Chlorpyrifos-methyl (ICb)-Cu	1000 200 100 50		
15	Pre-plant incorporated Post	Terbufos (ICb)	1000 200 100 50	5 5 0	100 98 98
16	Pre-plant incorporated Post	Terbufos (ICb)-Cu	1000 200 100 50	40 40 20	100 100 95
17	Pre-plant incorporated Post	Tefluthrin (ICb)	1000 200 100 50	10 5 5	90 100 100
18	Pre-plant incorporated Post	Tefluthrin (ICb)-Cu	1000 200 100 50	40 40 20	100 100 100
19	Pre-plant incorporated Post	Thiamethoxam (ICb)	1000 200 100 50	0 0 10	100 100 95
20	Pre-plant incorporated Post	Thiamethoxam (ICb)-Cu	1000 200 100 50	30 30 20	100 100 100

Example 3:

Insecticide and herbicide applied tank-mixed post emergent.

5 Prior to the planting of corn and weed, the substrate was filled into plastic pots. Crop and weed were planted following this procedure and grown under standard glasshouse conditions allowing optimal plant growth until 2-3 leaf stage. Then the herbicides were

applied according the rates indicated in the results table post emergent foliar over the top including standard adjuvants. The plants were visually evaluated on a scale of 0-100% wherein 0 % indicated no phytotoxicity and 100% indicated full control or death. 0-15% indicates acceptable crop tolerance, 85-100 % acceptable weed control. The evaluation was
 5 done at the time when maximal phytotoxicity or activity occurred. The results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3

		Crop/Variety	Corn Sweet honeycomb	Weed/ Solanum Nigrum	
Trt	Appln. Timing	Treatment/Product	a.i. rate/ GA/Ha		
1	Post	Mesotrione	400 200 100	20 20 10	100 100 100
2	Post	Mesotrione-Cu	400 200 100	0 0 0	100 100 95
3	Post	Chlorpyrifos-methyl Mesotrione	1000 400 200 100		
4	Post	Chlorpyrifos-methyl Mesotrione-Cu	1000 400 200 100		
5	Post	Terbufos Mesotrione	1000 400 200 100		
6	Post	Terbufos Mesotrione-Cu	1000 400 200 100		

7	Post	Tefluthrin	100		
		Mesotrione	400 200 100	30 20 20	100 100 100
8	Post	Tefluthrin	100		
		Mesotrione-Cu	400 200 100	0 0 0	100 100 100
9	Post	Thiamethoxam	70		
		Mesotrione	400 200 100	25 20 10	100 100 100
10	Post	Thiamethoxam	70		
		Mesotrione-Cu	400 200 100	0 0 0	100 100 100